have delegated powers to the MOU signing companies to transfer functional Directors from one charge to another, in the interest of the company, in consultation with the administrative Ministry and the approval of the Minister. In pursuance of these powers, a few companies under the administrative control of Ministry of Steel, have effected transfers of their functional Directors (including Managing Directors). Such transfers are therefore neither irregular, nor violative of any Presidential orders, and are made to meet organizational needs and administrative convenience.

Safety Measures at Chasnala Collieries

3489. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether safety measures and other actions had been taken by Government in the past incident occurred at Chasnala Collieries ;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor ;

(c) what action has been taken against the Officers responsible for the said mishap;

(d) what are the fresh safety measures Government have taken after the last year's mishap in the Chasnala Collieries ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir. SAIL has taken several safety measures both on surface and underground at Chasnala Collieries. Some of them include the following :—

(i) Diveration of Main water jore (small stream) passing over the surface area of the mine.

(ii) Construction of embankment on the banks of the River Damodar, to prevent flow of water to the low lying areas.

(iii) Construction of a concrete plug dam per specifications duly approved by the Director General of Mines Safety.

(iv) Construction of underground supports for which special steel yielding arches rolled at IISCO Burnpur were used.

(v) Survey of old workings which has been done jointly with Director General of Mines Safety.

(vi) 5 bore holes with steel casing have been made to tap water from the old workings.

(vii) As part of the modernisation plan of Chasnala, advanced technology to extract Coal from thick seams are being adopted with advice of expert foreign consultants.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Four top officers of the Colliery Complex were dismissed after the accident at Chasnala in December, 1975.

(d) and (e) Appropriate safety measures to safeguard employee's lives have been taken by the colliery management, after last year's fatal accident at Chasnala where one loader was injured and died ultimately owing to his inability to respond to medical treatment.

Policy on Import of Steel and Iron Scrap

3490. SHRI BRAHMADEO ANAND PASWAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) what is Government's policy on the import of steel and iron scrap;

(b) why is Government not allowing free and duty-free imports of steel keeping in mind the national requirements ;

(c) if so, what quantity of different varieties of steel is given annually to the tiny and small sector ; and

(d) what are Government's plans to enhance production of steel in 1995 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH